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FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Epidemic Conditions and Preventive Measures

DATE DISTR. 9 Apr. 1952

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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25X1X

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FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED AS "CIA PRELIMINARY"25X1A
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1. Since February 1952, epidemics of various diseases have been occurring throughout Manchuria, in Chahar, Hopeh, Shantung, Anhwei, Kiangsi, and in North Szechuan. The Ministry of Health believes that the chief causes of these

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epidemics is lack of snow and cold weather last winter. The diseases include measles, smallpox, influenza, pneumonia, relapsing fever, mumps, and typhoid.¹ The epidemics spread rapidly because of a shortage of medical personnel and medicines and because the people do not understand elementary medical precautions. Incomplete statistics reaching Peiping by 29 February show that epidemics exist in over 160 hsien², that over 400,000 persons are afflicted and over 50,000 dead.

2. Central Government authorities have ordered all levels of party, administrative, and military organizations to devote their whole effort to epidemic control. They expect to stop the spread of epidemics by 10 April and to eliminate all epidemics by the end of April. The order includes the following points:
 - a. Medical organizations of all major administrative districts, provinces, cities, and troop units must immediately organize a designated number of anti-epidemic teams. Those organized in areas where epidemics are prevalent should immediately begin activities; while those in non-epidemic areas should await assignment from Peiping.
 - b. The Ministry of Health and the Revolutionary Military Council Medical Team must allot medical personnel and machines as actual conditions demand; and regions needing medical help must receive it in time.
 - c. Responsible departments of party and administrative organizations must appoint specific persons to follow epidemic developments closely and make daily reports to Peiping.
3. The Ministry of Health has obtained a large quantity of medicine from the East China District and flown it to Peiping for distribution. Aid has been requested from the USSR.
4. Members of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party agree that the germ warfare propaganda campaign is unwise and that the party must disassociate itself as much as possible from the campaign, saying nothing except when forced. Most intellectuals are skeptical, realizing that because of the bitter cold no germs except plague are likely to exist in North Korea and Manchuria and no insects would be able to survive or be active at this time of the year. These intellectuals are dubious whether germs are being transmitted by insects and, since plague exists every winter in North Korea and Manchuria, they believe that germs need no American introduction.
5. Health offices and public security agencies at Peiping and Tientsin have been requiring all residents to take inoculations although there are no serious contagious diseases there.³ 25X1A
6. Following the 24 February protest by Peiping against germ warfare, Harbin authorities launched a large-scale propaganda drive and a concurrent anti-epidemic drive. All medical help was mobilized, including all private physicians and technicians. Teams of three to five persons were set up for research and propaganda. Public and private hospitals were told to cultivate vaccines for inoculating local people. A doctor who recently returned from the USSR says that two Soviet germ specialists are soon to be sent to Harbin. According to rumor, epidemics are rife in North Korea.

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7. As of 21 March, the bubonic plague epidemic in the Canton area was under control.⁴ Besides inoculations against smallpox and plague for residents, public places are being sprayed with DDT from planes.
8. Bubonic plague has reached serious proportions in Huahsien (110-39, 21-31), Lienchiang (110-16, 21-36), Hop'u (109-10, 21-38), Hoyuan (114-48, 23-42), Tzuchin (115-14, 23-37), and Lungtsun⁵ hsien.
9. An epidemic disease, the symptoms of which are high temperature, delirium, and weak breathing, is prevalent in the prison at Liuch'eng in Hoyuan hsien.⁶ In late February and early March about 300 prisoners died of this disease. About 1,500 prisoners are usually kept at this prison.
10. Between 24 and 27 March, the price of DDT powder in Hong Kong doubled as a result of heavy Chinese Communist purchases.²
11. Representatives of the Canton Office of the United Front Department of the Chinese Communist Party were to arrive in Hong Kong on the morning of 23 March to purchase blood serum. This serum was to be sent to Canton and from there by plane to the Ch'inhuangtao (119-35, 39-57) and Ch'angli (119-08, 39-43) areas for use in combatting plague in North China.

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12. On 20 March, MAO Tse-tung ordered North China authorities to burn all villages where plague was out of control.
13. A large number of Soviet doctors are in Peiping supervising the anti-plague campaign in North China.⁷
14. Central Government authorities are mobilizing medical personnel throughout China to be sent to North Korea and Antung to prevent the spread of plague.

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Comment. For previous reports on epidemics and preventive measures, see [REDACTED]

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Comment. [REDACTED] the Chinese Communist authorities are now planning to do everything possible to reach an agreement in the Korean truce talks.

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Comment. Presumably because of the plague.

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1. Comment. According to other information available to this office, the Chinese Communist News Agency reported serious epidemics in Shangtung, Hopei, and Anhwei. Measles, smallpox, influenza, pneumonia, and relapsing fever were mentioned.

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2. Comment. This has been reported in a 28 March dispatch to the New York Times.

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3. Comment. [REDACTED] no epidemics exist in Peiping.

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4. Comment. [REDACTED] reported that between 16 January and 15 March, 876 persons in Canton had died of bubonic plague.

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5. Comment. Possibly Lungch'uan (115-16, 24-02) hsien.

6. Comment. This disease is believed to be caused by malnutrition. 25X1C

7. [REDACTED]

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**INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

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COUNTRY China

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 9 April 1952

SUBJECT Transport of Anti-Epidemic Aid

NO. OF PAGES 2

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BY CABLE

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THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY
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SO DISSEMINATION NUMBEREDChina, Peiping

1. In mid-March 1952, Central Government authorities ordered the Civil Aviation Bureau of the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) and the Ministries of Railways and Communication to transport medical personnel and medicines so that they arrive at epidemic areas in time. Urgently needed personnel and medicine must be sent by air; while the bulk of such aid will be sent by train. In the country, trucks will be used. All air and rail movement of passengers and goods which are not urgently required are to be stopped during the important anti-epidemic period.
2. Anti-epidemic medical teams of the East, Central and South, and Southwest China Areas have been organized and flown to Peiping for duty assignments by the Ministry of Health and the RMC Medical Department. Part of the teams will be sent to North Korea.
3. The importance of the time element has necessitated transport of most medical personnel and medicine by air. On March 1 civil air transport in Southwest China, including flights from Hankow to Chungking, Hankow to Kunming, and Chungking to Ch'engtu, was stopped. Passenger planes were assembled at Peiping for use in anti-epidemic actions.

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4. According to Chungking papers, airmail service in that area was temporarily suspended in early March.

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1. Comment. This is part of the order from Central Government authorities to all levels of party, administrative, and military organizations on epidemic control which was reported in

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